

THE ALTERNATE VIEW

"Together We Achieve the Extraordinary"

INSIDE APD

by Vince Garcia

A look back at some notable accomplishments by APD employees.

Mary Ellen Attridge represented Lucia Terrasas. This was a child killing where it became clear at an early stage that our client was "not good" for this crime. Further, it seemed that the co-defendant husband was trying to switch responsibility to the mother of his child. **Sue Mangum** was able to unearth proof that our client was out of the home when the crime took place. This, together with setting the record at the preliminary hearing and filing a strong Section 995 motion set the stage for a memorable victory. At the motion hearing, Mary Ellen was able to convince the judge that the case should be dismissed. That was the result and the client has her life back. Lucia is already enrolled at Palomar College and is working part-time.

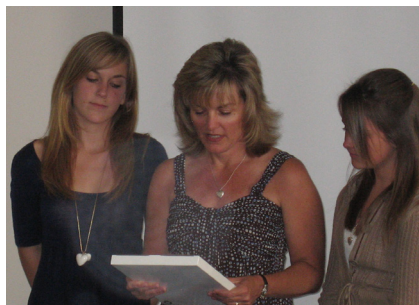
Bart Sheela and **Jeff Martin** prepared the **Ben Norton** capital murder case in El Cajon. Jeff was working in the Vista office when he was asked to join the defense team of Bart and **Jean Dittmyer**. He gave up his case load and moved to El Cajon where he and Bart began to craft a guilt and penalty strategy. Bart, Jeff and Jean made many trips to prepare this matter including Alaska and the Midwest. Countless hours were consumed in this endeavor. Finally, as trial approached, Bart and Jeff were able to orchestrate a settlement that spared the life of our client as well as one of the co-defendants.

Mary Knockeart left the South Bay office and moved downtown to inherit the caseload of **Dan Burland**. One of the cases she inherited

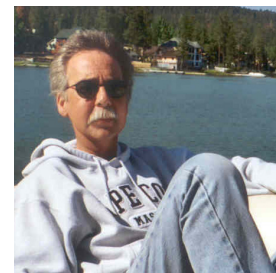
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In Memory of Jesse W. Gilbert

Jesse W. Gilbert, 51, died December 19, 2006 after a brief illness. Despite several significant medical challenges over the course of his life, Jesse lived life to its fullest potential and was as an inspiration to all who knew him. He was born in New York, and graduated from Stuyvesant High School and the nursing program at Queensborough College. In 1982 he worked as an ICU nurse at Alvarado Hospital in San Diego and received his law degree from Western State University in 1988. Since then, Jesse worked for the San Diego County Public Defenders Office and Alternate Public Defenders Office.



Jesse Gilbert's outstanding performance as a lawyer was recognized posthumously by his colleges when was given the Dale Ray, ESQ. Memorial Award for the year 2006. Pictured to the left are his wife and two daughters, receiving the award.



Jesse enjoyed taking long motorcycle rides with friends and playing bass guitar in the local band Night Shift. He will be greatly missed by his many colleagues, friends and family. He is survived by his wife Nancy (Higby) Gilbert; daughters Sarah and Rachel; his parents Alfred and Nancy Gilbert; brothers Jeffrey and Daniel; and nieces Talia and Myan.

A memorial celebration held was January 20 at the Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club. A college fund has been set up for Jesse's two daughters, Sarah and Rachel, at the San Diego County Credit Union. Jesse W. Gilbert Memorial Fund, Account #2979625.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Timothy A. Chandler, Alternate Public Defender

The Importance of Client Advocacy After Litigation



The criminal justice system faces significant challenges in preparing former offenders and parents of victimized children to reunite with their families and their communities. Traditional roles must be reconsidered and expanded to accommodate new ideas and new approaches to offender representation, a more holistic approach that includes "aftercare". To meet these needs, the Alternate Public Defender (APD) sought to develop a program that follows recovering clients on their rehabilitation and reunification journey and supports their efforts to gain permanent employment, establish a home, raise their children with whom they have been reunited and, in general, become more productive members of their communities. APD's current effort is called The Client Advocacy Network. This program is needed because re-offending is the dominant problem facing the criminal justice system.

The original Family Advocate Program and the Strategic Options after Rehabilitation or Reunification (SOARR) Program had "aftercare" of client needs as their essential goal. The Family Advocate Program assisted parents who had children removed from their homes because of physical neglect, alcohol and/or drug abuse. These parents had to succeed in a plan devised by the Court for reuniting them with their children. A reunification plan typically mandates that the parents undergo a successful treatment program that ad-

dresses their problems, before their children are returned home. The Family Advocates are citizen volunteers who are screened, trained and given practical experience before they assume their positions helping clients. Once in place, the Family Advocates provide emotional, practical and moral support to the hundreds of parents who were ordered into drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

SOARR was envisioned as a partnership between San Diego County departments, churches, community agencies and the courts. SOARR was a natural extension of the Family Advocate Program. The SOARR program recruited and involved successful graduates of the Substance Abuse Recovery Management System (SARMS) and Drug Court programs, as well as other community members, as Family Advocates. SOARR further involved professionals from the courts and Alternate Public Defender offices in the "aftercare" of clients who were rehabilitated and reunited with their children and families. The success of these programs depends on our ability to successfully rejoin parents with communities in stable living environments in compliance with all the terms and conditions of their probation or reunification plans. In addition, the clients need to find employment and successfully break the patterns that led to their crimes, addictions and their consequences.

These programs seek to address the rehabilitated and reunited parents' needs by providing a central point of contact, including a toll-free telephone number so that support is only one phone call away. SOARR envisioned a network of support from other graduates from SARMS and professionals who knew the difficulty and problems recovering clients face when reestablishing themselves. Finally, SOARR served as a liaison to housing, placement and educational contacts and pro-



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vided direction to job training and effective interviewing skills.

SOARR linked agencies, nonprofit organizations and support groups that addressed the particular needs of each recovering client. Follow-up legal and professional support may make the difference between recidivism and successful rehabilitation and reunification of families. The Client Advocacy Network is an extension of both SOARR and the Family Advocate Program. When fully developed, it will work with the AB618 programs and other outreach programs such as Black Men United, Prison Ministries and so on. Though this is the most difficult and underfunded part of the work we do, we must continue this effort if we want new beginnings for our clients and better communities for our society.

APD Profile *by Holly McMahon*



Mary Beth Wirkus, this is your life! Arise at 6:30 a.m., get the boys to school (no small task), and off to one of her many duties as the Supervisor for the Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency Primary Parent office. What shall it be today? One of the many policy group meetings that must be attended monthly? A Team Leader Meeting? A rules committee or a protocol meeting? A meeting for the Juvenile Justice Commission? Then it's on to covering a morning caseload in either delinquency or dependency in one of 13 courtrooms in 4 different areas of the county. Then an afternoon in drug court or truancy. Perhaps even a trial or two? All while fielding phone calls and drop-ins from the 17 attorneys that she supervises! But there is no rest for the weary because there are performance evaluations to write, payment requests to authorize, judges to keep in contact with, attorneys to train, 827 motions to monitor, all while making sure that the Administrative Office of the Courts is happy with dependency performance and statistics. Oh yes, in her spare time she trains, trains, trains. For the California Western School of Law, the San Diego County Bar Association, Joint Law Office trainings, and for various focus groups, just to name a few. Finally, after a fun filled day Mary Beth gets to go home and "relax" with her equally as busy family.

In her 17 years as a lawyer Mary Beth Wirkus has never been busier or happier. Since August of 2005 she has been the supervisor for Delinquency and Dependency (Primary Parent Office), after several years of practicing in both areas. This position is not without many challenges all of which Mary Beth meets with skill

and competence, gleaned from her early days as a Riverside Public Defender, then as an attorney with APD.

With an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Spanish, Mary Beth went on to graduate from Western State School of Law in December 1989. Mary Beth put herself through undergraduate and law school by working in retail sales at Robinson's and Nordstrom. Maybe that is why she is so persuasive today, as she could sell ice to Eskimos! Her first job was with the Riverside Public Defender's Office where her job assignment was adult criminal. In 1994 Mary Beth joined the APD team where she started out in adult criminal, then went on to juvenile delinquency for one year. Then it was back downtown, back to delinquency, until she was assigned to the dependency unit in 2003. In 2005, Mary Beth again returned downtown to run the law clerk program and carry adult criminal cases. Finally, she returned to Gibbs Drive as a supervisor. One can see from her path at APD that Mary Beth is the perfect candidate to supervise two diverse areas of law. In fact, last year Mary Beth was the recipient of the Dale Ray, ESQ. Memorial Award, solidifying the fact that she is outstanding in everything she does.

One might think that with such a busy schedule there is no time for a personal life. Nothing could be farther from the truth for Mary Beth. Thirteen years ago, Mary Beth married Paul Wirkus, who is the owner of one of the most (if not the most) successful 7-11 stores in San Diego county. She became an instant mother (and "soccer mom") to three beautiful blonds, Rachel, and twins Ashley and Lauren. Mary

Beth and Paul obviously have done a great job raising the girls as Rachel is now a senior at the University of Delaware and the twins are sophomores at UC Davis. In addition to the girls, Paul and Mary Beth had Dillon and Collin, born in 1996 and 1998, respectively. With the girls off to college Mary Beth and Paul spend their time at the boys' never-ending athletic events. There is year-round baseball and soccer, and seasonal basketball. Both Dillon and Collin excel in sports and Dillon even plays in travel baseball and soccer, requiring many trips out of town. In fact Mary Beth's intimate relationship with Riverside continues even to this day as many of her son's games take place there. Luckily for Mary Beth one of Dillon's upcoming away games is in Cooperstown, New York and the family will be traveling there soon. The Wirkuses are not only involved with the boys' games; also they love to attend Charger and Padre games and hold season tickets to Aztec games! Mary Beth and Paul don't simply attend the boys' games, they are active on the teams as Coach (Paul) and Team Mom (Mary Beth). They are also Den Leaders for the boys' Cub Scout troops.

In addition to sports teams, the Wirkus family likes to travel, and travel they do. Twice a year they go down to their place in Cabo San Lucas where Mary Beth likes to lie by the pool (and drink margaritas of course!). Also there is a ski trip once a year to either Utah or Tahoe and all of the Wirkus family is adept at skiing. This year the Wirkus family gets to travel to Hawaii for the annual 7-11 Convention. At times Mary Beth and Paul travel sans children as Mary Beth has a large extended family in San Diego. Indeed there were seven children born between her and her three sisters within a short period and they all help with the children. Finally, Mary Beth's association with Nordstrom continues to this day as she works to perfect her shopping techniques, something she tries to practice as much as possible. How does she manage her job and all of her extra-curricular activities you ask? Anyone who knows her knows that she does it, and with lots of humor!

APD is lucky to have a dedicated and hard-working employee in Mary Beth. Not only is she a great supervisor, she is a great human being and someone whom many are fortunate to call a friend.

2006/07 APD Awards



Carolyn Sims presented the APD Director's Award by Tim Chandler, APD Director



Karen Gould is presented the Investigator of the Year Award by Sandra Huff, APD Chief Investigator



Marian Gonzales presented APD Chief Deputy Award by Tim Chandler, APD Director



Ericlee Cayetano presented the Above and Beyond Award by Harold Tuck, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of the County's Public Safety Group.



Roberta Hussey presented Above and Beyond Award by Harold Tuck, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of the County's Public Safety Group.



Bellamy Walker received Volunteer of the Month of May Award 2007 from District 5 Supervisor Bill Horn.

INSIDE APD

Continued from page 1

was **Marcus Dean**. Mr. Dean and his co-defendants were charged in the brutal rape of a young woman. Many counts alleging sex crimes together with a complaining witness identifying the group made this an unusually high stakes case. Again, the combination of expert lawyering by Dan and Mary as well as **Sue Roehmholdt** and **Manny Rivera's** tireless and creative investigation combined to result in a jury verdict that exonerated all clients of all crimes. It was an emotional verdict with the trial judge coming off the bench to shake hands with the clients.

George Osper was assigned an attempted murder and assault case. He tried the matter to a jury and convinced the jury to acquit on the attempted murder and disagree 6 to 6 on the assault count.

Matt Mohun and **Marc Levinson** prepared and argued a Writ on a Proposition 36 issue that was recently published and is now authority in the State.

These cases are mentioned because they are high profile. Their citation in no way suggests that they are the only good results achieved. It is my observation that day in and day out, all of the APD lawyers are winning cases and achieving good results for their clients. The investigators provide stellar support and contribute mightily to these outcomes. Every day I hear about cases that have resolved on favorable terms. Often, I hear about cases that resolve on terms better than the first "offer". I also hear about the various strategies and tactics our lawyers are coming up with in those cases that simply have to go to trial. Even in those instances where the case seems hopeless and all are hostile, APD is there demanding, objecting, calling witnesses and generally standing in the way of the State. Many of these cases result in guilty verdicts or adverse findings. No matter. Statements in Mitigation are filed and arguments are made at the sentencing or dispositional hearing. I also hear that Delinquency is having great success in keeping their youngsters from turning 18 with "strikes" on their record. In addition, I am aware that our dependency lawyers and investigators are able to win services for those clients who have

"(e)" cases or other matters where children are at serious risk. Many cases end up with a sentence or result that is the same as the first offer or even better. Well, that is a win. This is the daily calendar grind that is simply a staple for all APD lawyers.

This last year saw the creation of the Client Advocacy Network. This type of program had long been a plan but never realized. Thanks to **Ann Bartoe** and **Aron Hershkowitz**, among others, the program took shape and is open for business. We have several "mentors" who intend to guide and assist certain clients in early reunification or achieving success on probation.

This caliber of lawyering can be found in all of the criminal, delinquency and dependency offices. It does not matter whether the argument is for life, avoiding CYA, strikes or returning a child to his or her parents and securing services- APD is known for tough and creative lawyering. We all need to step back for a moment from the heavy calendars and realize that our work can and often does make a real difference in individual lives.

Writs and Appeals by Matthew Mohun



Over the past year the lawyers of the Alternate Public Defender's office have taken their clients' causes to the hallowed halls of the Fourth District Court of Appeals. The topics included the interpretation of the newly voter approved sexually violent predator (SVP) law (Welf. & Inst. Code § 6600 et seq.) and the highly publicized systematic racial inequality of downtown jury pools.

The new SVP law changes the previous two-year civil commitment to an indeterminate term upon the petition of the District Attorney. The jury pool writ petitions focus on obtaining discovery from the Superior Court as to the method of notification, and exclusion of potential jurors prior to reaching a courtroom. It is believed, and widely supported by anecdotal evidence, that people of color are under-represented in San Diego juries.

In a collaborative effort the APD was able to create published favorable case law on behalf of our clients that are on probation, but nonetheless eligible for Proposition 36 drug treatment (Penal Code § 1210.)

In *People v. Superior Court (Edwards)*, 2007 Cal. App. LEXIS 10, the government petitioned the Court of Appeals to reverse the judgment of the Superior Court sentencing APD client **Sean Edwards** to Prop. 36 drug treatment under the mandatory language of Penal Code section 1210, subdivision (a). The government believed that Mr. Edwards' probationary status on two unrelated and "un-revoked" grants of non-drug involved misdemeanors made him ineligible for Prop. 36. pursuant to the California Supreme Court case of *People*

v. Guzman.

A brief overview of the case history and holding:

At the time of the commission of the misdemeanors, Mr. Edwards was on probation for non-qualifying offenses under Proposition 36, specifically, disobeying a domestic violence restraining order and battery on a peace officer. The reviewing court found that the prior probation did not render defendant ineligible for treatment under Proposition 36. Although an offender who was on probation for non-qualifying offenses was not eligible for Proposition 36 treatment as to the non-qualifying offenses, that rule did not make defendant ineligible for probation on the NDPOs for which the trial court was sentencing him. Further, defendant was not incarcerated at the time of his sentencing on the qualifying offenses and the People had not sought to have the court revoke probation in his prior non-NDPO cases. The trial court properly placed him on such probation because defendant was not subject to one of the exceptions to mandatory probation and drug treatment set forth in Pen. Code, § 1210.1, and was not legally incapable of complying with the conditions of probation under the statutory scheme.

The case went to oral argument which was thoroughly prepared by downtown law clerk **Marc Levinson**. In attendance were numerous members of APD staff and all available law clerks. In his first appearance before the tribunal Marc was tempted by Justice O'Rourke to "snatch defeat from the jaws of victory"; undaunted Marc pushed ahead and laid a well articulated argument before the court.

The case puts to rest a considerable point of contention between the District Attorney's Office and defense counsel with respect to Prop 36 eligibility. It is truly a great office win with significant contributions at all levels especially Liesbeth Vandenbosch who set the issue up in the Superior Court and **Marc Levinson** who prepared for every conceivable government argument.

Multiple Conflicts Office by Dan Mangarin

July brings the two year anniversary of the Multiple Conflicts Office. This "pilot" project began accepting cases on July 16, 2005. It was created to address the rising costs for the highest level and most serious cases that the two existing Public Defender Departments could not accept because of conflicts of interest. In the short two years of existence the MCO has handled nearly sixty cases. Most have involved the most serious types of charges and allegations in the criminal justice system. Five of MCO's current cases involve allegations of "special circumstances" and are now making their way through the courts at various stages.

For two years now, MCO has worked hard to become an integral and recognized part of San Diego's criminal court system. The office has accepted appointments from every one of the judicial branches in the county. It has stepped in to assist the courts and the county by providing representation in cases that were not originally anticipated. Many of these matters are complex and require a great deal of time and effort, such as in death penalty and sexually violent predator cases. Both of these types of cases were outside the private bar contract for conflict cases which was created six years ago. The office has worked hard along with the leadership of the Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender and the Private Counsel Conflicts office to improve the early and accurate identification of conflicts in these high level cases. These efforts have ensured that excellent representation for the client will always be safeguarded. Not only has a better system emerged, but through MCO's efforts in tandem with the private bar and the panel program, the two agencies have managed to end each of the past two years at or slightly under their budgeted number for these high level cases.

The high quality of the representation provided by MCO has been noticed and commented on by many. Judges, attorneys and clients have expressed several compliments about

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Client Advocacy Network C. A. N.



The County of San Diego Department of the Alternate Public Defender is staffed with attorneys who represent indigent children and adults accused of crimes or of child abuse and neglect.

In August of 2006 APD launched the Client Advocacy Network (C.A.N.) volunteer program designed to provide mentors for our clients throughout all phases of their involvement with the justice system. We are currently seeking confident and mature mentors and advocates, who would like to make a contribution toward reducing criminal recidivism, enhance the strengths of young and desperate families and engender young people with self-respect and hope. Specifically, our goal is to have a higher percentage of our clients successfully complete their reunification and/or probation conditions. This will mean fewer children in foster care and fewer people in custody. Mentors will receive on-going training and support by the attorney representing the client and program coordinators.

Our first C.A.N. training and Open House was held on October 21, 2006. After an inspiring introduction from Director **Timothy A.**

Chandler, we were treated to an informative presentation by Probation Director, **Stacy Adams**. Ms. Adams explained various programs and resources designed to help both our juvenile and adult clients. HHSA Supervising Social Worker **Terri Zinner**, a former APD Investigator, gave an enlightening overview of the dependency system. El Cajon Superior Court Commissioner and former APD attorney **Gary Bubis** provided compelling insights and anecdotes about what parents did and didn't do that made the difference in whether they were reunified with their children.

The second part of our training was held the following week. We were fortunate to have attorney and APD alum **Jacqueline Crowle** share her vast knowledge of the challenges and pitfalls our clients face when trying to successfully complete probation. She was followed by **Irene Wells**, a former APD Family Advocate and current Court Appointed Special Advocate. Ms. Wells has many years of volunteer experience helping families to reunify. Ms. Wells shared her common sense wisdom on the nuts and bolts of mentoring and how to connect with a client. **Scott Dittmyer**, Supervising Public Defender Investigator, ended the

training with an overview of safety in the field and confidentiality issues in his own entertaining and hilarious style.

We are privileged to welcome our initial recruitment of six capable and enthusiastic C.A.N. mentors and extend our gratitude for their commitment and service to our clients. Two mentors are working in the criminal division: **Emily Wilcox** and **Rebecca Couch**. The third, **Jennifer Terrell**, is in the process of completing her background application. We hope to have her start soon. Our juvenile division mentors consist of **Bridget Bristow**, **Rachel Steinauer**, and **Adonica Johnson**.

Our ongoing recruitment efforts include postings at National University, Volunteer San Diego, and San Diego State University, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Volunteermatch.org and a variety of other local publications. We look forward in the coming months to recruiting and training new mentors to guide and support our clients in making healthy decisions for themselves and their children.

You can learn more about our program by calling **Ann Bartoe**, Director of Client Advocacy Network (858) 974-5835 or Aron Hershkowitz, C.A.N. Criminal Coordinator at (619) 446-2913.

E-mail: Ann.Bartoe@sdcounty.ca.gov or Aron.Hershkowitz@sdcounty.ca.gov

Multiple Conflicts Office *Continued from page 5*

the work of the MCO office. **Judge Gil** once commented on the "thoroughness and skills" of the MCO attorney in his courtroom who was fighting the good fight. In another letter written by a recent client of MCO the client wrote: "Throughout all of this, **Mr. Weintre** [MCO attorney] has gone above and beyond for my family and me. He has been very professional and kind. Most of all very supportive of my family and I [he] is the perfect model of a real lawyer and what they should do for their clients". Attorneys on both sides of the courtroom, private and public, have stopped this writer and commented on the caliber of attorneys that were put together at MCO. Knowing the difficulty of the cases and tasks involved, the project could not have succeeded without attorneys with a history of success. **Wil Rumble**, **John O'Connell** and **Jim Weintre** are the best examples of this. Supporting this great team of professionals are investigator **Ernie Zetino**, office manager **Roberta Hussey** and about eight extremely bright and enthusiastic volunteer interns/students.

These past two years have been two of the best. Inspired by such a great team of colleagues and co workers, challenged by the most interesting and important tasks and supported by an impressively innovative and resourceful department and county, this small but solid "pilot" project has been an honor and a pleasure to have been a part of. Without a doubt, it has made a most difficult job seem miles less difficult.

A View from the Trenches *by Ricardo D. Garcia*



In 2004 several attorneys in our office faced the very real possibility of layoffs. I was one of those attorneys. The stress and uncertainty of losing my job, after more than 8 years, was too much and rather than stomach the daily rollercoaster I took a job in Los Angeles. I was not alone; **Jean Brandl**, **Wil Rumble** and **Dewayne Moring**, also facing layoffs, decided to try their luck elsewhere. The losses were a virtual gutting of the office's future growth. Morale was low, tension was high and with the absence of 4 criminal lawyers Downtown the case load and stress was sure to increase for those who remained.

Nearly two years later, in February of 2006, the opportunity to come back to a more stable APD materialized and I seized it. It was a true homecoming and what I found was something different from what I'd left. Three experienced dependency lawyers, **Matt Mohun**, **Jim McMahon** and **Melinda Sanchez** stepped into the void left by Jean, Wil, Dewayne and myself. The three of them had taken on a new field of practice and had done so with dedication, integrity and grit. Case loads were up and each brought their extensive experience with dependency caseloads into the mix. In shouldering their new burdens with aplomb they earned the respect and admiration of their colleagues, the bench and their adversaries.

In the shadow of the County's budget axe, Tim had found a way to make us grow and help secure our future. The APD Multiple Conflicts

Office was born; with **Dan Mangarin** at the helm, **Wil Rumble** back in Public Defense and with **Jim Weintre** and **John O'Connell** rounding out the legal team MCO has taken on a steady diet of murder and mayhem. Thankfully, they have Roberta and Ernesto to back them up. Another well planned change was **Vince Garcia** moving, from his sanctuary in Vista, into the number two slot Downtown; his sense of fairness, easy going nature and willingness to take time to talk and listen to his team set a relaxed and morale building tone to the Downtown office. Tim's ability to put the right people in charge is another feather in his Director's cap. When I stepped back into the office I could feel the changes, they were palpable.

Coming back I was reminded of the breadth of this office, how the lawyers are made better advocates by the support staff that makes the daily routines easier for us all. Nettie has assembled a quite cast of characters. Clarisa, Marian, Eric and Marissa take such great care of us. Habte, Cecile and Malou work hard to keep the numbers crunched.

2006 also reminded me of the heart of our Downtown team, our excellent investigative staff. With Sandy at the helm and Sue working closely with the lawyers and investigators our office is made strong not only by our legal advocacy but by their daily pounding of the pavement. Aron, Shana and Susan have been keystones to the successes of our work Downtown, along with Manny, Kim and Richard, who have come and gone this year, our investigators have shown true dedication to the lawyers they support and the clients we represent. It's the people at APD that make us a great criminal defense firm.

One year later the Downtown office continues to grow and move forward. Even with four of our more experienced lawyers, **Liesbeth Vandembosch**, **Mary Knockeart**, **Dan Burland** and **Steve Wadler**, tied up in death penalty cases, our reputation as a leading criminal defense firm in the County is well protected by those of us who grind it out everyday in the court house. There are three "new" additions the legal staff at APD **Shervin Samimi**, **Jeff Martin** and more recently **Tim Brackney**.

Shervin started on the same day I came back and he has shown that after 8 years in private practice his heart was always in defending the indigent, the word "no" is not in his vocabulary when it comes to helping teammates. Jeff brings great experience and dry humor to the mix; one never tires of hearing about Chicago. Tim with his history in the office has made himself right at home.

2006 was exciting; we threw solid elbows against prosecutors who often held all the cards. A highlight last year was Mary's amazing victory in the Dean case. I was lucky to be in the courtroom with **Dan Burland** when the verdicts were read; 69 Not Guilty verdicts, it was amazing, simply amazing.

2006 left no question that Matt, Jim and Melinda are experienced trial lawyers able to handle what comes their way. They are the new foundation of APD. They have helped to guide and shape our character and face.

In 2006 we continue to build a family, with all its dysfunction and joys. Lunchtime has become an anticipated ritual where **Dan Burland** regales us with colorful stories of South Africa and Steve's passion for politics, social justice and the History Channel is entertaining and a bit frightening. Office doors Downtown are open and more experienced lawyers, like Liesbeth unselfishly share their wisdom and legal War Chest.

2006 was a year of friendships, old and new. Wednesday nights became a tradition open to any and all who want to bond over food and drink and a lot of good spirited ribbing. Shervin and Shana's humor keep us laughing into the evening, and Matt's relaxed nature is infectious. Aron and John make clear that we are all one team, we are all APD.

For me, the last year has been a gift. Coming home to work I love and people I admire, respect and feel honored to call friends is truly rewarding. I guess Jeff was right; they will make a lawyer out of me in spite of me.

Letters from APD Clients and Friends

Mary Ellen,

You have made it possible for me to have my innocence proven and my freedom restored. I am so thankful for all you have done for me. You have helped me realize that there are people who care and I am not alone. Thank you so much for everything.

Lucia

I really don't know

What I'd do,

If it weren't for wonderful

Friends like you.

Thank You for Everything.

I am sending you a picture of Alex and I. When you look at it I hope you'll always know how important you are, especially to me.

Thank You,
Lucia

Vince Garcia, Chief Deputy
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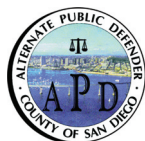
Dear Mr. Garcia:

This letter is to thank you for having such a keen, dedicated and effective attorney as part of your staff in the person of Ricardo Garcia. He recently represented my nephew, Toran Jack, and the results were rather pleasing. Ricardo has shown that he can properly defend his clients while standing firm against the tactics of the opponents. Thank you, and I hope that you and your staff continue to keep up the good work.

Best Regards,

Roshun

Roshun



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South Bay Office
765 Third Avenue, Suite 305
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April 22, 2007

Mr. Timothy Chandler,

I'm writing you in: to Alternate Public Defender Melinda Sanchez.

It should be duly noted and attorney Sanchez justly rewarded for a excellent legal representation in the case of people vs L. Damm.

Attorney Sanchez patients should be noted as well. I've seen their own tears. I got on her last nerve, but she did not give up on me.

I know you all are over worked, with a tremendous case load. I'm one of the number of a over crowded judicial system.

However Ms Sanchez did not shuffle me along. She fought a hard fight & a good fight & was successful.

It's only fair, it's only right, that she be justly rewarded, because she worked for it, therefore she deserves it.

Please do the right thing and reward attorney Sanchez for her hard work.

Sincerely,

Justin